

Bristol, Nov: 3^d 1847

My dear Mr. May

I did not intend writing to you by this packet having sent you a letter last by the last, & being rather an invalid owing to asthma which gives me bad nights: but the departure of the "Answer" to the Boston invitation, together with Mr. Armstrong's urgent wish that I should tell you ~~the~~ our recent trouble (which disturbs him however more than it does me) compels me to say a few words.

We have decided on sending the "Answer" to the final custody of the Rev^d J. Clark both as a signer of the invitation & the supposed writer of the Boston Lib^r. Lib^r. Lib^r. Not knowing his ^{address} ~~address~~, Mr. A. has addressed the document for him to the care of Mr. Waterston, & I thought to enclose Mr. W's having it, & I thought he is addressed thro' "Croby & Nicholls".

Now with all these directions, & with your being on the look out for it, (we thought it best not to send it thro' you) it surely must reach its destination!

Mr. Armstrong has written fully to Mr. Waterston & to Mr. Clark. I hope they will make his letters public. Mr. W. & Mr. N.

goes ^{by post} ~~with the Address~~, Mr. Parker ^{with the Answer.}

A friend has had the signature &c neatly
expressed & the roll is nearly 20 feet long. It
was only finished this afternoon, & sent to night
to Liverpool. Finding it unsafe to send
the roll unprotected, in the hurry of the
moment, I got a tin case in which I
put adhesive plaster, & had a bit put on
this afternoon to lay them it, & wound
the roll very snugly. There are 54
Minutes & 1404 long signatures.

Now the trouble is, Mr. Ashurst
having sent the private printed Circular
to the Liberator, & its being printed in
the Refuge Oct: 18, which came to us on
the 29th ult. It seems to us it

will detract from the freshness & effect
of the Answer, & prove more irritating
than it would naturally be? Mr. L. is
more sensitive than Mr. James, or I, am
about it. Still, it may be highly expedient
for us to explain. Mr. A. ("Ed. Hunt") tells
me in a letter of to day that he is "the sinner."

I think he ought to have been more
considerate. I sent him a printed cir-
cular for his signature: he authorized
the signature, but sent the circular to

Mr. Garrison he tells me. Mr. Armstrong
has written an ample explanation to Mr.
Waters & Mr. Clarke, he would have
inserted an apology upon the margin
of the document itself, had I not dissuaded
it! I have also, in compliance
chiefly with Mr. A's wish, written a short
letter to the Liberator referring to this
matter and transaction. It has an...

then conveyed me to see how Mr. Coket
speaks of the answer as mine, and I
do not think Mr. Armstrong likes this
either. ^{where mis} ~~can~~, represent either of these
kind are made, I often think the less
they are noted by way of contradiction
or explanation, the less impression
will they make. To you then, both

Mr. Armstrong, Mr. James & myself are
desirous of leaving the decision on the
propriety of publishing any, all, or
none of the letter I enclose.

Nov. 3^d Wed.

In many public movements a know-
ledge of inceptive proceedings would tend
to make the affair ridiculous. On the
present occasion Mr. Armstrong has cer-
tainly been the main spring, & finding

him willing to take the labouring oar
I was willing to share the discredit (which
is not small,) to give a little personal
exertion, & to defray all the expenses, es-
pecially as I ~~originally~~ suggested (finding
it would not answer to ~~go~~ well to press the
matter in the Xth Union) the sending a
circular to all our Ministers without
distinction to "try the spirits," well
knowing ^{however} that many would severely con-
demn us.

I confess to not thinking
the occasion the best that might oc-
cur; still after the discussion at Har-
vey, I was glad to profit by any decent
opportunity of stirring up our slumber.

Mr. James took my view, perhaps
more strongly, of the unsuitableness of
the occasion, at least ^{after} its being one
that would be extensively, & not uni-
versally objected to: He was however
quite willing to bear his ^{share} of the
proach of the measure. Of course

the Ministers we have met with re-
public & censure, ^{from some,} others, with warm
wise feeling, have sympathized with,
& encouraged us. This is the private

History of our Answer, & as far as I am concerned in it, I do not wish the information to go beyond yourself.

On looking at the improving scroll ~~ex~~ before it was packed up yesterday in my tin plaster-cure, it certainly appeared to me rather too good a thing to go to a few private individuals, (perhaps to be buried by them) instead of to a Society where some publicity & permanence ~~will~~ would be secured.

I shall be curious to learn from you what is the effect of our labours, whether they prove really serviceable or a failure with you; - whether any good produced be ^{as} equivalent ^{for} to the effort made? I do not at all regret any

failure of effect here: I am sure the way is paved for a monstrous Anti-Slavery Address, (as far as our body could get up one) in some future, & less exceptional occasion.

Mr. Armstrong wants to know if the answer to the Irish Address, that was so long delayed (& in reference to which Mr.

Geo. Sullivan (answering so neatly
answered D'Annunzio) was from a body
or Committee, or merely from the indi-
vidual subscribers.

When you see Mr. Chapman please
to say that I forwarded to Mr. Mazzini
this Cioffi (a celebrated Italian
Jesuit refugee) a copy of the "Liberty
Bell" with the little note & he wrote.

Have you ever seen Cioffi (Cioffi's
Narrative; I almost equal Dryden
in interest. I read one immediately
after the other - C's is an extraordi-
nary revelation of popish iniquity

If my note be inserted in
the Liberator, probably Mr. Quincy
will add a word of explanation;
for, as we do not hesitate to tell our
Unitⁿ brethren some plain, and
not very acceptable truths, we wish
to ^{treat} ~~treat~~ them personally, in a
gentle & only manner.

The paragraph in our "Answer"
which has excited the most oppo-
sition, & to which many sisters
have excepted is that the last
but one, speaking of slaveholders
as being disqualified for having
influence in any ~~our~~ religious
movement. Dr. Butler is very
strong against us ~~here~~ on this point.

With every kind wish, I am
my dear Sir,

Yours sincerely

J. B. Collins

Please to mention if you ^{have} received
the £1 for Lib^y &c.?

The Nat^l. Standard is sent to me
gratis, so I ought not to complain

but very often duplicate Nos are
sent, only one of which I want, and others
keeping up a regular series, are
not sent. I would rather pay a dollar
a year for ^{one complete} ~~a regular~~ set without
~~any duplicates~~, than to have the
number of copies made up by dupli-
cates without any charge.